



Professor John Groppe – A Puma Tradition

John Groppe, English professor at Saint Joseph's College, has been facilitating young aspiring writers for nearly 40 years. Although he has been teaching part time for the past five years, Groppe has no plans for retiring any time soon.

Groppe, who grew up in New York, came to SJC in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in Education from the College of the City of New York and a master's degree in American Literature from Columbia University.

Groppe is currently teaching Core 3 and Grammar and Expression; in the past, he has taught courses in Advanced Writing, Feature Writing, Basic Composition, Introduction to Poetry, Introduction to Fiction, Utopian Literature, Literary Criticism, Creative Writing Poetry, The Autobiography, and World Literature over the course of his career. He has also taught every level of Core with the exception of 5, 6, and 8.

Groppe said that his favorite classes to teach are Basic Composition and Literary Criticism.

"The Composition course enables me to come to know students in a very different way. The emphasis on writing tends to begin with personal narratives – asking people to write about what they know." Groppe values that course because it gives him a chance to know students in terms of their own life stories.

"It was rewarding because I was able to facilitate students as they came to know themselves. Sometimes years later when I see students who have graduated, I can't remember their names, but I can remember what they wrote. The stories really stand out – not that their names aren't important – but the stories are a large slice of that student's personality and history," explained Groppe.

Groppe also enjoys the Literary Criticism course because he finds it challenging. "I also enjoy teaching Literary Criticism because it gives me a chance to respond to my own questions about literature and at the same time try to help students make sense of it all," Groppe said. Professor Groppe was the faculty advisor for Measure for many years and is currently the secretary of the executive committee of the Faculty Assembly and a freshman advisor. Groppe also oversees the Writing Clinic, where students can receive

feedback and assistance on their papers. A number of students and faculty have worked alongside Groppe over the years.

"He is a very pleasant person to work with. Professor Groppe has a very good heart and is also very hard working. He is always willing to help out in any way he can," said senior Maribel Licea. Professor Maia Kingman also feels extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with Groppe.

"I am lucky to know John Groppe, because he is always looking out for me. I

Tina Carroll
Reporter

cludes rival banners on our doors. We both papered our doors with propaganda during the

subway series. John provided most of the propaganda for both sides," Mottolese said.

Groppe has accomplished a great deal during his many years at Saint Joseph's College. However, he believes his greatest achievement to be the development of an eight semester writing curriculum, which was implemented into the Core program.

In 1976, when Dr. Nichols was the Di-

rector of Core, he asked Groppe to prepare a writing curriculum that would integrate and systematize the writing done in Corcs 1-10. It had to be comprehensive, developmental, and appropriate to the particular Core it coincided with.

"Many of the assignments remain integral parts of Core, such as the rhetorical argument done in Core 3, personal essay in Core 4, imaginary visit in Core 7 and 8, and the manifesto in Core 9," explained Groppe.

Groppe recalled an incident in which former students reached out to him in both a personal and academic way. In 1973, the Administration Building burned down and Groppe lost a great many

books. Students who had graduated and knew of his appreciation for certain things sent him copies of two particular books – Aristotle's *Poetics and Rhetoric* and Kinneavy's *A Theory of Discourse*. "They thought of me in terms of being devoted to particular ways of understanding and viewed me as being in need of a certain collection of ideas that were central to my teaching; it was both personal and academic. I was very moved by that," he said.

Although he hopes to continue to teach at the College for many years, Groppe said what he would miss the most would be direct contact with young people and commenting on students' writing.

"I probably won't miss grading, but I will miss the opportunity to work with students' ideas on paper. Although it is time consuming, I think I will really miss it," he said.

Senior Bree Ma'Ayteh said she appreciates Professor's Groppe's honest feedback when it comes to writing.

"If you need improvement, he'll tell you. If you're doing something wrong, he'll tell you; not because he's being mean, but because he wants to help you learn the most you can, and he wants you to make the most of your education. Professor Groppe won't waste your time sugar-coating the truth. And because he's taking the time to criticize your work, you end up actually wanting to take the time to make your work better," said Ma'Ayteh.

In his spare time, Groppe enjoys bicycling, writing poetry, and spending time with his three grandchildren. He also has a great love for photography – particularly capturing pictures of nature right in his own backyard. Groppe takes these photos and turns them into greeting cards, which he gives to friends and family. He has exhibited some of his work at the state fair, county fair, and with the Prairie Arts Council.

"I have received a lot of recognition and appreciation for being able to see things in flowers and leaves that other people do not see," said Groppe.

It is also quite evident that Groppe has received recognition and appreciation here at SJC for being able to see potential in his students that maybe they do not even see themselves.



Professor John Groppe participating in one of his favorite Puma events, Little 500.

think he checks my car on the way in to work every morning to make sure it is in optimal working condition. 'You might check the tires—they're a little low,' he'll say to me as he passes me in the hall. 'Everything okay with you? It looks like you're living out of your car,' he has asked me on what feels like more than one occasion," said Kingman.

Bill Mottolese commented on Groppe's "unflappable good will and humor." "I felt close to John fairly quickly because of our New York connection. I have even forgiven him for being a Yankee fan (I am an intense Met fan and Yankee-hater), and John and I have cultivated a healthy Mets-Yankee rivalry, which in-

cludes rival banners on our doors. We both papered our doors with propaganda during the subway series. John provided most of the propaganda for both sides," Mottolese said.

Groppe has accomplished a great deal during his many years at Saint Joseph's College. However, he believes his greatest achievement to be the development of an eight semester writing curriculum, which was implemented into the Core program.

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Decline and Fall of the Puma Empire

Josh Hughes

I remember walking to class as a freshman and practically everyone that walked by would at least smile and say hi. Everybody on the campus was sociable, friendly, and personable. Being an 18-year-old entering a new school, and not really knowing anybody's name, it felt very warming, walking to class and seeing that everybody who passed took the time and effort to at least say hi. As new Pumas, my class looked up to the juniors and seniors for leadership and an understanding about life. They were the people who really loved this campus and the ones that understood words like community, freedoms, and core values.

In these past four years, my life has completely changed from when I first set foot on to campus. I now feel I have the knowledge and education to excel in my field of study, and the social skills needed in life. I have had the experiences and made the mistakes necessary to be ready

for the "real world." As a freshman, probably eighty percent of what I learned was outside of class.

Today I walk to class and half the people I walk by won't even make eye contact. The underclassmen are not a part of the friendly community that was established when I was freshman. No hello's, no smiles, not even an acknowledgement of existence. Is that community? What kind of experience is this for our freshmen? How am I able to teach underclassmen what I've learned when they are afraid to acknowledge me? Our social impression of St. Joseph's has changed in a short period of time. Why, in three years, has our community deteriorated to everything being a liability? Why is it a security officer won't help a student unlock his own door? Our friendly atmosphere has eroded to unwanted liabilities and harsh regulations. Is it still "a great day to be a Puma?" What has become of our positive community? I see a large

number of freshmen who won't get the experience and education that I was able to receive. Seeing this current attitude, brings me to the question, Is our campus turning out to be like every other college? What separates us from other schools that are less expensive? I feel we need to bring back a sense of community to Saint Joe's. We need to bring back student leadership, as well as teach incoming freshmen about communication skills inside a community. Our college is becoming too politically correct, and people are afraid to make mistakes.

Students need to learn in class as well as outside of class; that is why we are here. Social skills are very important to excel in life and I feel our underclassmen are not getting the education that they paid for. Our present day regulations and liabilities have limited the freedoms that gave me the education that I am so grateful to have experienced. If St. Joseph's does not revive the thought of community, I am afraid for its future.

To the Editor...

A fellow Catholic gives his opinion about the war on terrorism.
Joseph Valley M.A., Washington Green, CT

The Persian Gulf War did not end in 1991. The barbaric war was continued on September 11 at the World Trade Center in New York City; at a solemn field in Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon in Washington. The Gulf War was initiated by Republicans politician President George H.W. Bush, Senior. The former president stated that the purpose of the massive military action was to liberate Kuwait from Iraq. Over 200,000 Iraqi soldiers and civilians were annihilated. Thousands of American military personnel developed the mysterious Gulf War syndrome including perhaps the Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. Legions of Iraqis especially hospitalized babies report-

edly perished after the cruel war.

The Persian Gulf War never should have been initiated by the elder George Bush. The one-sided war was started by Mr. Bush and his hidden political strategists to elevate his mediocre poll numbers going into the '92 election. The political ploy was briefly successful but Mr. Bush's inept leadership caused his defeat to William Clinton, a moral moron.

The liberation of Kuwait was absolutely not in American's national interest but in the interest of the Republican owned oil corporations who investments would not have been affected by the Iraqi "corporate take-over" of Kuwait. During the 1980's, America was buying vast quantities of oil from Iraq

and selling to Iraq millions of dollars in weapons, which were used in the Iran-Iraq War, was to kill almost one million Iranians. These weapons were also used against the American military in the Gulf War.

The Gulf War was a Wag the Dog ploy employed to enhance Bush's insipid image and nothing else. Now Mr. Bush's same name son is deflecting his father's culpability for the Gulf War and the September 11 catastrophe by declaring war against the "terrorists." The Bush presidents should not be praised but prosecuted for exploiting the nation's treasure to advance their political careers. They deserve condemnation and nothing more.

PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

Saint Joseph's College is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The College will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit February 25-27, 2002, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation and General Institutional Requirements.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the College to:

Public Comment on Saint Joseph's College
The Higher Learning Commission
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago IL 60602-2504

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential.

All comments must be received by January 25, 2002

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Mark Your Calendar!

This year's Winter Formal will take place on Saturday Dec. 8th from 10pm to 2am in the Ballroom.

Tickets are \$5/single and \$8/couple. The dance is sponsored by Halas and Justin.

If you have any questions, contact Sarah Sikkema or Kristen Hall.

Public Relations Class Polls SJC Students

On Tuesday, November 6, the students in Communication 352, a public relations course, conducted a survey of 143 students, which is 16% of the SJC student population, asking them to share their opinions about the policies that regulate campus life. The purpose of this assignment was to experience the process of conducting a survey as a way to determine public opinion, but the students in the course wanted to design a survey that would provide relevant information to SJC students and administrators.

This is a nonprobability survey. It was distributed to students in the cafeteria at lunch on a Tuesday and to students in the day student lounge on that same Tuesday. This method does not

ensure a random sample. However, enough diverse SJC student populations attend lunch in the cafeteria and the day student lounge on Tuesdays that this survey can give us an idea about what the general attitudes toward policies pertinent to campus living might be.

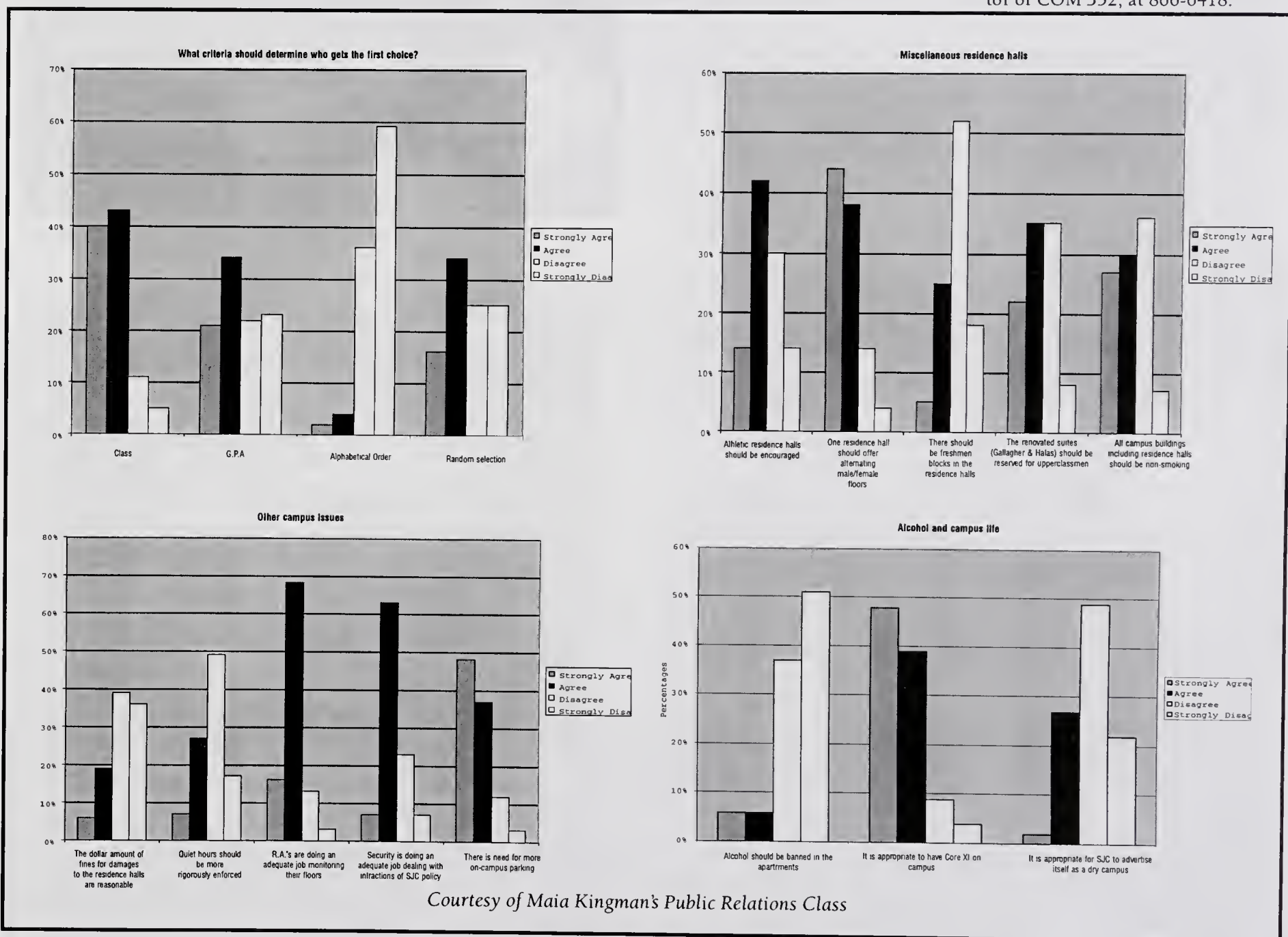
The survey suggests that parking is an issue that students see as needing attention. 86% of those polled indicated that there is a need for more parking on campus. Comments attached to the surveys indicated that some women feel unsafe walking to the dorms from the Sparling parking lot at night. This prompted the COM class to look at the percentages of responses by gender. 86% of the women

who answered the survey indicated that parking on campus is inadequate. The men were not far behind. 73% indicated that on-campus parking is inadequate. With only a 13% gap, safety might only be one of a variety of reasons students want increased parking. Given the content and quantity of written comments, however, the level of concern about safety seems to be great enough to warrant attention. Related to this issue, the COM class comments that they wish they would have included in the survey a question about the adequacy of outdoor lighting on campus.

Another finding of interest to the COM 352 students was the 71% of students surveyed who feel it is inappro-

priate for SJC to advertise itself as a dry campus. Future research might try to discover whether this data is an indication of a potential problem related to recruiting and campus life. Related to this statistic, 87% of students polled feel it is appropriate to have Core XI on campus. We cannot know from this survey that Core XI is the reason that students indicated it is "false advertising" for SJC to tout itself as "dry," but it might be interesting to try to discover whether students feel they receive mixed messages from SJC.

In addition to being published in *The Observer*, survey results are being sent to campus Administrators. Questions about this survey should be directed to Maia Kingman, the instructor of COM 352, at 866-6418.



SJC President Calls the College a "Microcosm of Diversity"

In his remarks at a reception hosted by the Most Rev. Bishop William L. Higi, Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, Saint Joseph's College President Ernest Mills, III, discussed the need for Catholics to affirm their faith in the context of a global environment. "This is done everyday at a Catholic liberal arts college," he said.

Noting the increasing diversity that people are exposed to, given the rapid advances in communication, travel, and trade, Mills asserted that Saint Joseph's "is now and over time will become even more a microcosm of diversity."

"The exciting part about being in such

a college is the challenge to fashion an authentic witness of our faith with the free inquiry of the mind. Such an approach affirms our commitment to human solidarity and interdependence on national and global levels. At Saint Joseph's College, we term this approach 'Christian Humanism.' It is part of our mission and thus [is part of] our strategic plan for the future."

At the close of his remarks, Mills renewed the College's pledge. "We renew our pledge to provide the opportunity for Catholic higher education, which is also

Maia Kingman

ecumenical in nature. The College affirms its mission to serve a diverse student body composed of men and women of all races, creeds, and socio-economic backgrounds who can thrive academically, spiritually and socially in our community."

Mills also thanked Bishop Higi for his continued support of the College. "We appreciate the support of our Diocese and Bishop Higi. We are grateful that the Bishop serves as a Trustee of Saint Joseph's. His counsel is often sought."

The reception was held at the Bishop's residence on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 2 to 4

p.m. (EST).

Saint Joseph's College is the only Catholic college in the Diocese of Lafayette, which includes parishes as far north as DeMotte and as far south as Carmel. The reception was a collaborative effort between the Bishop and the College designed to introduce Mills, newly appointed President of the College, to the Lafayette community.

The reception in Lafayette is just one part of a plan for Mills to meet alumni, parents and friends of the College throughout the United States, starting in the Midwest.

SJC Volunteer Corps: Helping a Little at a Time

Nichole Workman
Reporter

While most students are busy studying for exams and writing term papers, some are still finding time to help others. Members of Saint Joseph's College Volunteer Corps, dedicated to finding ways to help out people in the Jasper County Community, are some of those people.

With events like Foster Family Fun Day, Rake and Run, and Adopt a Highway, these students are proving to be positive role models for everyone at SJC.

According to president Amy Gulvas, there are about 50 members that take part in the events. "Usually, they just participate when they get a chance. We don't ask them to do every activity," she said. Other officers include sophomore Travis Lechien, who serves as vice president, treasurer Erin Diener, who is a freshman, and junior Jennifer Jasinski, who serves as secretary.

This past October, the corps organized a Foster Family Fun Day here at the college. Four foster children came to participate in activities in the SJC Recreation Center, and in a scavenger hunt around the dorms in their Halloween costumes. "It was really fun," said Gulvas. "There were two boys and two girls. The little boys clung to a freshman volunteer, Brandon Deardorff. They followed him around everywhere he went, so it was pretty funny."

Other recent events include the Adopt a Highway and Rake and Run. For Adopt a Highway, the corps took a two-mile stretch of a highway under their wing, cleaned it up, and put a sign there, which explains to

passers by that the area belongs to the SJC Volunteer Corps. This two-mile stretch is now their responsibility to preserve.

For the Rake and Run program, volunteers went outside in the cold for one week and raked yards for the elderly. "It was actually a lot of fun," said Diener. "I went on a day when the wind was horrible with Kelli Ledman and Amy Gulvas. Even though it was freezing cold...it was a lot of fun anyway. It was hard weather to work in, but we used our resources wisely and we got the job done." Some freshman seminar groups also helped out with this activity.

The corps is an organization that gives SJC students a chance to help the less fortunate and learn about others.

"I joined the Volunteer Corp because I like to help out my community," said Diener, "I feel better about myself when I get to help others."

Interested in joining the Volunteer Corps? Contact any of the officers for information.



Local children watch a Halloween episode of Scooby Doo with Volunteer Corps members during Foster Family Fun Day.

SJC HABITAT MEMBERS: THANKFUL TO HELP

Susan Huss
Features Editor

Thanksgiving Break. A time to stuff yourself with turkey, go in the living room, lie down, and vegetate. But for 10 Saint Joseph's College students involved in Habitat for Humanity, it was also a time to help others in need.

These students, along with faculty advisor Fred Berger, spent Nov. 16 through Nov. 21 in Rocky Mount, N.C., where they put in two and a half days of work building houses for the victims of a flood that hit Rocky Mount three years ago. This is the third year SJC has sent a group to help the cause.

"I chose to go on the trip because I wanted to spend this Thanksgiving giving others something to be thankful for," freshman Kenny Shumard said. "After working in North Carolina, I almost feel upset with myself that I don't help more. I spent three days working to provide something I've always taken for granted to others-something that I can't conceive not having. The knowledge that there are so many people out there who don't have something as basic as shelter makes me feel irresponsible that I spend so much time in front of a television or playing video games."

Throughout the trip, the volunteers spent time landscaping, painting, and laying a foundation, working on new houses and repairing those damaged after the flood.

"Sneaking off to visit the house across the street, the one that was still quite flood damaged and abandoned [was the most memorable part of the trip]," senior Kathryn Gaines said. "The few of us that did so really got to see what the houses looked like right after the flood. It gave us a real sense



Habitat Members stand on the Rocky Mount Habitat site, where they helped to build new houses for the less fortunate.



Kat Gaines, Luz Arambula, and Kenny Shumard paint a damaged house.

of what these people have gone through."

Though some of the group said they were disappointed that they did not work as much as they would have liked, the volunteers were grateful they got to help the less fortunate.

"The work we did at first seemed like too little. Moving dirt and painting walls aren't things that are at all difficult to do," Shumard said. "But then I realized that that's the point. People without shelter don't need engineers or rocket scientists to help them. They only need people with a desire to help."

Freshman Brian Bugajski added, "There is no greater reward than the feeling you get from helping others. Just knowing that we helped finish a home in time for people to enjoy Thanksgiving, was a great feeling."

In between working, the group made time for various activities. They had a day to do some sightseeing, in which they saw the Atlantic Ocean, climbed a lighthouse, toured an Elizabethan garden, and visited Fort Raleigh. Throughout the five days the group spent together, they created friendships with each other.

"I've been on several Habitat trips, but I've never laughed harder or made more friends than on this one!" sophomore Angie Williams said. "I always have a great time spending time with people that I don't normally hang out with."

Shumard agreed. "I can say that when we left on the trip Friday afternoon, I was going with two friends, three or four acquaintances, and several strangers. When we came back, I was in the van with 10 close friends, people I feel privileged to say I know and have worked with."

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, contact Fred Berger at fredb@saintjoe.edu.

Puma Profile: Allison Glidewell, Keeping the Faith

Susan Huss
Features Editor



At one time, she almost turned away from Christianity. Now she's sharing her faith in Christ with others.

After a struggle with her religious beliefs, sophomore Allison Glidewell, a non-denominational Christian, turned to God in a big way. Now she makes Christ a priority, and she is not afraid to spread her faith.

"In my middle years of high school, I pretty much rejected Christianity altogether," Glidewell said. "Luckily, I had a great group of friends who brought me to a youth group, and after talking to the leader,

I realized how true Christianity was...so I gradually accepted Christ as my savior and started turning my life around."

With a new found faith, Glidewell is active in a praise band and youth group at home in Hobart, and The Venture Christian group in Rensselaer. On campus, she is involved with the faith group and Right to Life. She also hopes to help start a group called The Cause with freshman Tony Salati.

"I would love to see small spiritual groups pop up on campus, especially groups that investigate the presence of Christ in pop culture mediums like movies and music," Glidewell said.

Glidewell said she is religious because she finds comfort in Christ.

"[Religion's] the only part of my life that is stable," she said. "All of my material possessions, my family, and my friends could be gone tomorrow, but Christ will always be here for me. I've found that focusing on Christ and regular prayer has helped me realize that earthly problems are no big deal. What I may have seen in the past as major problems became minor obstacles when I remember God won't give me anything I can't handle."

Glidewell shares her faith because she feels it is her duty to serve Christ.

"I try to make myself accessible," she said. "I try to smile a lot and listen to others. I figure if people see me as constantly upbeat, then they'll ask me why I am so happy, and then I can tell them about Jesus!"

An English major who likes theater, guitar, piano, and needlepoint, Glidewell is the daughter of Joe and Diane Glidewell and has a brother and a sister, Brian and Kelly. But she may leave all this behind after college to do missionary work in Africa.

"It would give me a chance to help people who are suffering both spiritually and physically," Glidewell said. "Christ gave us all the Great Commission, so it's a responsibility for me to share the Gospels with those who haven't heard them yet, or haven't been properly acquainted with them. I'm thinking about teaching English to African kids, but I'm not quite sure yet. I'm just waiting for God to tell me where to go!"



Elementary education majors and secondary education minors at Saint Joseph's College recently wrapped up a big project. They finished yet another semester of Saint Joseph's Academy (SJA), a program for local children.

For five Saturdays during the first semester, parents could drop their children off and get some errands done while their kids were getting an extra dose of education. The theme for this semester at SJA was Hawaii. The children participated in such activities as making grass skirts and leis, learning to Hula dance, and creating "volcanoes," sand art, and oceans scenes.

All of the children who attended SJA, from pre-schoolers to fifth graders, were taught by education students at SJC who were members of the Education Club.

Career Center Connections

Kelli Bridges
Reporter

"Show Me the Proof"

Imagine yourself as an interviewer with 10 to 15 interviews a day. You HEAR the same thing over and over but never SEE anything that supports it. Then, one day, someone comes in for an interview with a portfolio, which allows you to do just that. That individual leaves quite an impression on you and may get the job.

In today's highly competitive job market, where several highly qualified people are seeking the same jobs, you need to set yourself apart from the rest. Employers want to see the work that you have done; they don't want to just hear about it. One of the best ways to prove yourself is to create a career portfolio.

The purpose of a career portfolio is to provide proof of your abilities, produce a tool that clearly represents you, and to document and support the claims on your resume. Portfolios do not only show proof of your work, but also vital information about you. Portfolios can also be used as a conversation piece with employers, to show your strengths in different areas. Portfolios are a great way to allow you to sell yourself.

Career portfolios are not something to be designed once, used in an interview, and then forgotten. Creating your career portfolio is a process. As you change jobs and increase your number of accomplishments, it is necessary to keep your portfolio current. Portfolios also tend to come in handy during job reviews and promotion reviews. You will set yourself apart from competition if you come prepared with a career portfolio.

A career portfolio contains the following: your career goals, resume, areas of expertise, work samples, letters of recommendation, works in progress, certifications, diplomas, degrees, awards, proof of community service, membership certificates, and references. You will want to use samples of college work, work reviews, pictures of events and things you have participated in that are relevant to your portfolio, as proof of your involvement and abilities.

Just because you have a career portfolio does not guarantee you the job you are interviewing for; however, it will set you apart from the competition. A portfolio will help you become more confident about your skills and abilities, and provide you with "ammo" in your interview.

For more information on building a career portfolio check out the following books: *Creating Your Career Portfolio*, *Proof of Performance*, and *Building Your Career Portfolio* located in the Career Center Library. Another option would be to enroll in Marketing/Management 349 Career & Job Planning where you will develop a career portfolio as one of the class projects.

Lady Puma Basketball : The Women Who Want to Win

Bridget Newman
Reporter

The women's 2001-2002 basketball team is optimistic about their season, which began November 16. As of November 26, the date of the first conference game, the team was 1-3.

"We'll be better than last year," commented freshman and forward center Courtney Rosenbaum. The 2000-2001 team completed its season

with a disappointing 2-24 finish.

Junior Whitney Avery, who is a guard forward, hopes to make it to the conference tournament this year. Avery is hopeful about the Puma chances to compete in the tournament. She noted that the freshmen are "excellent. They're very helpful; they're a great help to the team."

Of the 12 women, three are freshman, six are sophomores, and four are juniors. In regard to the absence of seniors, Avery said, "We might lack some experience without the seniors, but everyone from last year's team is returning."

"They're great," Rosenbaum

said of the upperclassmen. "They are the reason I love playing. They help us out a lot. We have a great group of girls."

The chemistry on the team has proven to be an asset to their performance. Their constant communication on the court is imperative, whether it is through hand signals, called-out plays among team members, or receiving directions straight from Coach Lynn Plett on the sidelines.

This season is Plett's eighth as head women's basketball coach at SJC. He also served as athletic director for four years before coach Bill Massoels

took over the position in 1998. Plett also worked with Huntington and Marymount College as the men's basketball coach. He has received such honors as National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 10 Coach of the Year in 1988 and Great Lakes Valley Conference Coach of the Year in 1994. His experience in coaching basketball teams has enabled the Lady Pumas to greatly improve their game.

Though off to a rocky start, the Women's Basketball team knows it has many opportunities to succeed. The girls have every intention of doing so.

Michael Jordan : Same Number, Different Colors

How a Chicago Bull's Fan is dealing with Jordan's Switch from the Bulls to the Washington Wizards

Becky Scherer
Reporter

Chicago has always had at least one dependable sports team. For as long as I can remember, the Bulls were imprinted in my mind as being the greatest basketball team ever to grace the court. It could be, because living in northwest Indiana and being so influenced by Chicagoland activities, that northwest Hoosiers felt a sense of Chicago pride. Or it could be because of the amazing human being known as Michael Jordan.

I've been to a number of Bulls games. My favorite part was driving into the packed stadium parking lot. All those cars... they were there to see my team, my players. Walking into the United Center, I was overwhelmed by the crowds. Everywhere I looked, a splash of red, black, and white caught my eye. Finding our seats took forever, and pushing our way through the massive sea of fans was a chore in itself. But it was a chore that had a most positive reward: the first glimpse of Jordan on the court. Now, I've been to many a loud rock concert in my time, and I've heard my fair share of deafening cheers, but *nothing* compares to the sounds of the fans in the United Center. As soon as the lights dimmed and Benny the Bull came out for the starting line up, I could barely hear the announcer over the thunderous cries of Chicagoland Bulls lovers. Looking down in front of me, I couldn't pick out one empty seat. Even at half time the seats stayed full! It was a fine time for Chicago.

But after more than a decade, the fun ended. Jordan decided to retire. Chicago and the rest of the

nation, for that matter, was crushed. Basketball became less important and appeared less frequently in newspaper headlines.

As a corporate gift, my father was given tickets to a Bulls game from a client. I decided to go with my family, to see if even a little of the magic had remained. What a huge mistake that was.

There was hardly any traffic in the parking lot; it was just a "regular" parking lot now. Walking inside, the team colors still flashed everywhere, but somehow it was less festive. The crowds of fans were sparse, and they somehow seemed a little insincere, as if they felt a forced duty to be there to support their team. Watching a Bulls game shouldn't be a chore, but that's the way it appeared to me.

The starting lineup was just a regular run-of-the-mill lineup now without our star player. The team was hopeless; the sadness of the crowd seemed to carry onto the players' faces. Everyone was missing Michael Jordan. People didn't even wait until half time to get up now; they left whenever they felt the need, not caring if they missed a play. I looked up behind me (we had third row seats because tickets were much less valuable now) and saw more empty seats than full ones. I felt hot shame blush my face. I was embarrassed for the city of Chicago itself—what a fall from grace.

However, one final spark of hope was offered in the summer of 2001.

Rumors were flying that Jordan was going to come out of retirement and play basketball again! Every Chicago Bulls fan breathed a simultaneous sigh of relief. We knew Jordan couldn't resist the thrill of the game; after three years, he had finally come to his senses. It wasn't official yet, and we still didn't know what team he would be playing for. But it was only natural he'd return to the Bulls, the team he was with from the beginning, right?

Wrong.

It was a black day when we learned of Jordan's destination to play for the Washington Wizards. How could he do this to us? How could the NBA betray us like this? I think I

can speak for almost every Chicago Bulls fan when I say I was appalled and in disbelief right up until the start of the season. It finally hit home on Oct. 30. Seeing Jordan in purple, rather than red, made us all realize that this was for real. And what a way to start off the season: a loss to New York of two points. Even though it was a close game, I personally thought that would teach Jordan a lesson: when you play for another team, you will lose. The next two games were huge wins for the Wizards, all thanks to Jordan. But, as the rule says "all that goes up must come down," Nov. 4 they took a big loss to Detroit's team by more than

twenty points. Seeing Jordan play again was an almost perfect dream. If only we could somehow replace that pesky purple jersey with a vibrant red one!

Personally, I feel jealous when I watch Jordan play now. I see him soaring through the air to gracefully dunk the ball, and I expect to hear the Lovabulls going crazy. Instead, the Washington fans get to claim ownership to Jordan's fame. After being a fan for so long, it's only natural that I would feel violated to see my Michael Jordan playing in different colors. It's an adaptation we're all going to have to get used to; change isn't an easy thing to accept.

I guess Jan. 4 will be the moment of truth — sort of. At 7 p.m., Jordan will play against his former Chicago teammates. Will there be hostility? Or just friendly competition? Will the Bulls look down on Jordan for betraying them?

Another defining moment will be January 19th: the first time the Wizards are scheduled to play in Chicago this season. No doubt Bulls fans will be swarming to see Jordan play again, but will they walk away disappointed? I personally don't want to see Jordan running the opposite direction down the United Center court. I, along with most of the other fans (I think), will feel torn: should we honor our team? Chicago still is our team. Or should we cheer for Jordan, the man we spent years of our lives respecting? And what will it be like for Jordan? The United Center was his home. Now he has another home and has to compete against his old one. It is like revisiting the house you grew up in as a child, only to find the new owners have remodeled your entire room.



If anyone is interested in contributing their talents to the
Observer Sports section, email Melissa, Mgg3598@saintjoe.edu

Puma Profile: Andre Rinaldi

Melissa Genova
Sports Editor

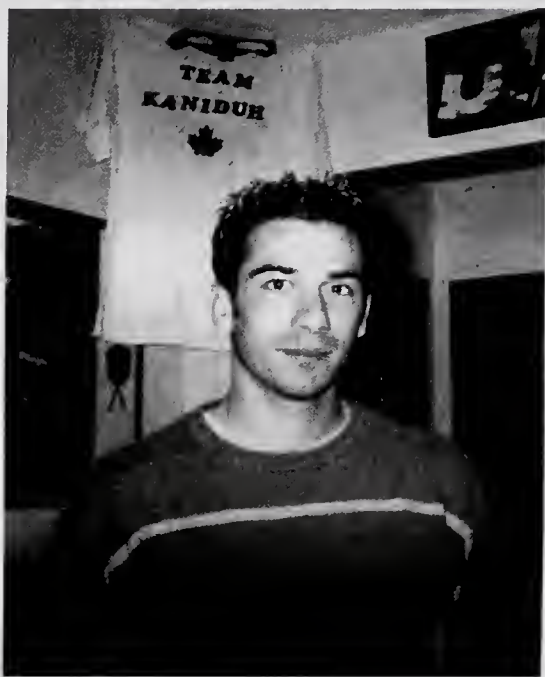
The Fall Sports season at St. Joseph's College recently came to a close, with many seniors realizing that their college athletic careers were finally finished. Andre Rinaldi was one of those seniors who made a name for himself on St. Joseph College's men's soccer team.

Rinaldi's soccer career began eighteen years ago in Ontario, Canada, but was recruited by former admissions counselor, Brian Studebaker, to continue his athletic career and college education at SJC. "Studebaker was a big part of me coming here. There was a combination of things, and everything worked out well for me," said Rinaldi.

Rinaldi has played soccer at SJC for the past four years. Serving as both a center midfielder and a sweeper on defense, both for two years, Rinaldi contributed to the improvement of the team. He put in extra effort during his career on the soccer team by serving as captain, a position he has held since his

sophomore year. During the fall 2001 season, Rinaldi was the second highest scorer with five goals and three assists.

Although the SJC soccer team has not ranked high in the final stand-



ing, Rinaldi is proud that team the team has progressed significantly over

the years. Rinaldi explained that even though the men's soccer program has not been particularly successful in terms of rank, "the team has improved the record for the four years that I have been here. We have improved more each year."

Rinaldi is not concerned about the team's future. "Coach [Rob] Burns has a good reputation for bringing in good recruits. This is a good young team with a lot of experience," he said. "They will improve their record."

The highlight of the fall 2001 season for Rinaldi was the Sep. 1 away game against Rockhurst University. "We won 3-2 in overtime. It was just a big rivalry for the past couple of years I've been here," said Rinaldi, who also scored one of the goals in the Rockhurst vs. SJC game.

Soccer is not the only sport that Rinaldi likes to participate in. "I used to play competitive hockey back home. I enjoy playing most sports, although I would have to say my hobby

sport is golf."

Andre Rinaldi has laid out a basic plan for post graduation, which will allow him to succeed in the business world. "I plan on going back to Toronto, and take my securities test for the brokerage field. Hopefully, I will be able to pick up a job related to my major," he said.

However, staying in the United States is still a possibility. "If I could get a job in Chicago where I would eventually be able to transfer back to Toronto, I wouldn't rule it out."

If there is a chance that he could resume contributing his skills on a team, Rinaldi would take advantage of it. "I will continue to play. I do not know how good the level of soccer will be, but I will probably play in a men's league," he said. He commented that there are certain aspects of playing college soccer that he will miss. "I will always miss the competitive part where everyone is on the same level. I enjoy being able to play soccer while completing a degree here at St. Joe."

Baseball Team Off to an Early Start

Alison Cole
Reporter

Although the baseball season does not officially start until February 16th, both the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams are already practicing for the upcoming season. The teams are working hard to get the basics down to prepare for team practices start so they'll be ready to work on more complex skills.

Right now, practices consist of four players working with a coach on fundamentals, such as pitching, catching, and hitting. The players are also doing some weight lifting so that they can build strength as well as skill. Working on these aspects now will benefit the team as a whole later when full team practices start. Coach Rick O' Dette said, "Once the season starts, there isn't any time to work with individuals. If they need to improve a swing or a throw, the only time we have to do it is now."

These small grouped, intensive practices help the players get the basics down, so that everyone can come together and work on plays as a team. After Christmas break, the team will be practicing together. A typical practice begins with a conference with coach O' Dette. He talks to the team about what is going to happen at practice and what needs to be worked on. Then, the team stretches and does warm ups. In the first week of practice, the team will concentrate on conditioning, and no one is allowed to even touch a baseball. The team will do a series of different drills to get their bodies in shape, such as running. After that, the

team will break into stations after running, to work on target areas of their game.

This year, there will be 56 games for the varsity players and 44 games for the JV team. For the varsity players the season could last longer than the actual school year. The last possible game would take place in the first week of June, for the National Championship. Starting practices early helps the team

get a jump on the season, and also helps newer members familiarize themselves with the team.

So far, coach O' Dette feels that the team will do at least as well this year as it did last year. "We should be a pretty strong team this year. We have a lot of new players along with a lot of veterans who are more than willing to help out the new players. It is a good group with a lot of depth. We also managed to fill

many holes in the team left by last year's seniors."

Last season the team won a little under half of their games in both the normal season and the conference season. The team's fielding percentage was 94 percent, and its batting average was .281.

The team will be practicing from 5am-7am six days a week after break.

Crucial Tips for a Popular Winter Sport: Snowball Fighting

Ahh...winter is almost here. I can just see it now: students catching snowflakes on their tongues, and sticking those same tongues to metal poles, shivering bodies trudging through snow in heavy coats and scarves, and of course, the inevitable winter tradition of snowball fighting.

Since the first snowfall of the year is coming closer, I would like to offer some tips that include both improving skill and safety measures.

* Pick on someone your own size (or smaller!). But definitely do not pick on someone who can run faster.

* "The bigger they are, the harder they fall" does NOT apply to
* Have an alibi ready. Everyone wants the baseball pitcher on their side, so start kissing up now.

* Do not put stones or any foreign objects inside the snowballs. That is just cheating.

* Avoid throwing snowballs in someone's face. It's not fair game; it just hurts.

* It IS fair to stuff snow down someone's shirt, though.

* The best attack is a sneak attack.

* If you are afraid of getting hurt, there are always those "E-mail Snowball fights," but they are not nearly as fun as the real thing.

* Snowball fights are actually an effective stress reliever, a fun way to exercise, and uses your proprioceptive, kinesthetic, haptic, vestibular, touch, and vision senses. (I had to throw something scientific in)

* Hot chocolate or hot tea is the perfect ending to a well fought snowball fight.

* Do not start a snowball fight before class unless you are willing to show up late and explain the mysterious wet spots on your body. Also, remember that you will have to sit still in wet clothes for about an hour.
* Snowballs keep well in freezers. You don't have to waste your time making them during the actual fight. Plus, you can avoid getting attacked and just throw them from the convenience of your own apartment/dorm room!

Happy Snowballing!
Your sports editor,
Melissa

SJC POET'S CORNER

9-11

Just Think About it...

These Bits of Wisdom are dedicated to Dr. Mottolese's Literary Criticism class, who has been studying these ideas all semester.

"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."
-Michelangelo

"The arts are an even better barometer of what is happening in our world than the stock market or the debates in congress."
-Hendrik Willem Van Loon

"Joy is but the sign that creative emotion is fulfilling its purpose."
-Charles Du Bos

"Author: A fool who, not content with having bored those who have lived with him, insists on tormenting generations to come."
-Montesquieu

courtesy of Quoteland.com

What in the world is the world coming to?
What the hell can anybody do
Smoke and fire dim the lights of New York City,
Instigating anger, panic, and pity.
All around the world, you can hear them scream,
It's the beginning of World War 3.
They don't know who's to blame,
The world has gone insane.
The buildings coming down,
Blackened ashes falling to the ground.
The governments in hiding,
The devastation's frightening.

What in the world is the world coming to?
What the hell can anybody do?
They're all evacuating,
They've stopped the world from trading.
What are we supposed to do?
What's to become of me and you?

The air is still and quiet,
There's a fear of war and riots.
We've all been paralyzed,
We're all immobilized.
It's a crime against the nation,
It's a shameful abomination.
It's time to come together,
Take my hand and be my brother,
Before we end what God created.
Suicide's been overrated.
The troops are on alert,
Thousands have been hurt.
The Man says someone's got to pay.
God help us, come Judgement Day.

Carla Luzadder

Concert in the key of P for Past.

She ran her hand over the concert ticket
that gave remembrance of a better time in her life –
a life she had to leave behind years ago
to start a conventional life not unlike her mother's,
but still, her mind wandered back to the show
with the roaring crowd, music, and drugs
readily available for the taking and still feeling the pain of his cigarette
burning her arm while he, her greatest memory of youth,
danced along in time with the music,
and she couldn't remember a time she was happier; but still and presently
she hid the ticket back where it belonged
and found herself pining to be young again.

Melissa Genova

Where did the word REDNECK come from?

courtesy of uselesknowledge.com

Redneck dates to 1830, when it was first used to denote the Presbyterians of Fayetteville. The significance of the name is somewhat obscure. Three explanations are commonly offered. First, it could be a reference to a ruddy neck caused by anger. Second, it could be a reference to sunburned necks caused by working in the fields all day. Finally, it could be a reference to pellagra which turns the neck red.

There is also a tale in which it referred to striking coal miners tale who wore red bandannas a means of group identification. This is unlikely due to what we know of its origin. The sunburn or pellagra explanation seems more likely than the anger one.

Interestingly, the Afrikaans Rooinek, which literally means redneck, is a disparaging term the Boers used to apply to the British and later became associated with any European immigrant to South Africa.



If you would like to contribute your talents to this page, please contact Nick Schafer at nsf3156@saintjoe.edu

WHO AM I?

www.uselesknowledge.com

After serving two tours in Vietnam, he became President Reagan's national security advisor.

He became a four star general in 1989, and the first African American to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After retiring, he published My American Journey in 1995.

Colin Powell

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;*

The Observer Staff wishes all of the Saint Joseph's College community a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

PUMPKINS STILL RELEASING "GREATEST HITS"

Melissa Genova
Sports Editor

There is a smashing new greatest hits album came out on November 20. Complimenting its release was a limited edition b-side album and a DVD. It is from the band that announced their breakup and went their separate ways, but before the breakup caused a stir in the music industry and defined the word "alternative." Their hits such as "Tonight, Tonight," "Disarm," "Cherub Rock," and "I Am One" are still continuously played on the radio, MTV, and used in various TV show themes like VH1's "Hit This." And you thought that you had heard the last from the Smashing Pumpkins!

Despite the fact that the Pumpkins have broken up, they continue to give to their fans. They previously released

"Machina II: Friends and Enemies of Modern Music," which was originally distributed to 25 people with the instructions to spread the music by any means possible. Fans were able to hear the new album by downloading it online or having others burn CDs for them. Instead of the Pumpkins shunning internet music distribution, they embraced the advantage.

The band continues to be different. Although "Greatest Hits" albums are passed out in handfals these days, the Pumpkins are also complimenting the release with a B-sides/Unreleased tracks album "Judas O'Reilly." Fans may associate this album with 1995's album "Pisces Iscariot," which featured B-sides and unreleased demos. Also, both names correlate themselves with the Bible's Judas Iscariot, the apostle who betrayed Jesus.

The track listing for the "Greatest Hits" album follows their entire career,

from "Gish" to the songs unofficially released but played for their final shows, "Real Love" and "[Untitled]." The listing is: Siva, Rhinoceros, Drown, Cherub Rock, Today, Disarm, Landslide, Bullet With Butterfly Wings, 1979, Zero, Tonight, Tonight, Eye, Ava Adore, Perfect, Everlasting Gaze, Stand Inside Your Love, Stand Inside Your Love, Real Love, [Untitled].

The "Judas O'Reilly" CD includes the songs Lucky, Aeroplane Flies High, Because You Are, Slow Dawn, Believe, My Mistake, Marques in Spades, Here's to the Atom Bomb, Sparrow, Waiting, Saturnine, Rock On, Set the Ray to Jerry, Winterlong, Soots and Stars, and Blessed. The CD will be sold with the Special Edition of the "Greatest Hits" album.

As if that is not enough for fans to handle for a day, Rotten Apples, the long awaited DVD will be released. The DVD will include every video released from

the band, clips from their final show at the Metro-Chicago, a clip about the lost "1979" tapes (allegedly, after the video was finished filming, the tapes were left on top of someone's car, and they drove away losing the tapes in the process) and a documentary about the band.

If anyone wishes to pursue interest in the post-band career of the member, Billy Corgan and Jimmy Chamberlain have formed a new band called Zwan, which will be debuting their music in California mid-November. Billy Corgan also collaborated with New Order and is featured on their newest single. He also is looking forward to producing various other bands. Look for D'arcy's new film with Mickey Rourke. James Iha has already released a solo album, "Let it Come Down," and will more than likely continue in that direction.